

**MINUTES OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2019**

7:30 a.m.

Eau Claire County Courthouse, Room 2550

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephanie Finn, Jill Barland, Dennis Pope

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniel Kincaid, Disa Wahlstrand

STAFF PRESENT: Fire Chief Christian Bell
Police Chief Gerald Staniszewski
PD Administrative Division Manager Kelly Thompson
Police Deputy Chief Chad Hoyord
Police Deputy Chief Matt Rokus
Human Resources Director Victoria Seltun
Firefighter Karl Johnson

The Commission convened in open session at 7:30 a.m. Meeting was called to order by Vice President Stephanie Finn. Vice President Finn asked if there are any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Police and Fire Commission meetings held January 17th, February 5th/6th, and February 13th. No corrections or additions were noted, and the minutes stand approved as circulated.

Chief Bell provided a personnel update for the Fire Department. There has been no appeal filed in regards to the Police & Fire Commission Hearing held in February. Chief Bell also let the Commission know that he issued a 6-month suspension of a firefighter due to a violation of department rules.

Chief Bell recommended Lieutenant Matt Gunderson for promotion to Captain. Discussion was held. Commissioner Barland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pope, and passed unanimously, to approve the promotion of Lieutenant Matt Gunderson to Captain, effective March 18th, 2019.

Chief Bell provided operational updates. The Fire Department was under budget for 2019. Chief Bell also provided Commissioners with copies of the Fire Department Annual Report, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

A discussion was held with regard to the police officer interview process. The Police Department currently has 2 openings, with 2 more anticipated by the end of the year due to retirements.

At 7:40 a.m., motion was made by Commissioner Barland, seconded by Commissioner Pope, and passed by unanimous roll call vote to go into closed session to conduct interviews of police officer candidates.

At 10:50 a.m., motion was made by Commissioner Barland, seconded by Commissioner Pope, and passed unanimously to move into open session.

Based on the discussion held and interviews conducted in closed session, a police officer eligibility list was created. Motion was made by Commissioner Pope, seconded by Commissioner Barland, and passed unanimously, to adopt the new eligibility list, which shall replace the previous list and remain in effect until replaced by the Commission. At Chief Staniszewski's request, one candidate will be carried over from the prior eligibility list.

Commissioner Pope asked Chief Staniszewski about the Police Department budget this year, due to City Council budget cuts at the end of 2018. A discussion was held.

Chief Staniszewski provided a personnel update for the Police Department. The Police Department currently has 2 openings, with 2 more anticipated by the end of the year due to retirements. There are currently 2 new personnel at the Police Academy and 2 in field training.

Chief Staniszewski provided operational updates. The 2018 Annual Report will be available in May and the Chief will bring copies to the next meeting. The first quarter of 2019 has focused on in-service training and recertifications. The Capital Improvement Plan process is underway for the City of Eau Claire. Kelly Thompson is assisting Chief Staniszewski in this process.

Vice President Finn asked if there are any future agenda items. Commissioner Barland suggested meeting the new K-9 dog, who is replacing Duke. Commissioner Barland also requested more information regarding the Police Department Youth Academy. Deputy Chief Matt Rokus provided information regarding the Academy.

Jill Barland has served 10 years on the Police and Fire Commission. Human Resources Director, Vicki Seltun, presented Commissioner Barland with a 10 year plaque, thanking her for her service. Commissioner Barland's term on the Commission will end on April 30th, 2019.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pope to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Barland, and the meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled Police and Fire Commission meeting is May 16, 2019.

Minutes recorded by Kelly Shea, Police and Fire Commission Secretary.